

Chief Giardina's passion for public service began in his teenage years, when he began training in 1978 through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act. His extraordinary work ethic and enthusiasm for public service earned him a permanent spot in the Clifton Police Department a few short years later. Not long after his appointment to the force, his success was dampened by a traumatic injury when he was run over by a vehicle traveling on Route 3. Doctors concluded that the damage would render his entire right arm permanently useless. However, his prognosis could not stop his passion for public service; he was determined to return to the police force. He was finally able to return to the force after enduring a long brutal battle through physical therapy. While life continued to present obstacles for then-officer Giardina his resilience persisted, even through lay-offs, demotions, and even brushes with death until 1988, when he was finally recognized for his incredible tenacity and was appointed to the Narcotics and Patrol Division and promoted to Sergeant.

Over the next decade his skill as a leader would earn the respect of his fellow officers and propel him to the rank of Lieutenant where he would assume command of the Community Policing Division in 1997. He was then given the rank of Captain and assigned to Field Operations in 2002. As head of the Field Operations Bureau, he was responsible for the Patrol, Traffic, and Communications Divisions which collectively made up the largest component of officers in the department until he would reach the pinnacle of his career when he was appointed as the Chief of Police in 2010.

During Chief Giardina's long career he was also able to continue his education and earn a Masters of Administrative Science degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a Baccalaureate degree from Jersey City State College of Criminal Justice. Chief Giardina is also a National and State Certified Public Manager. He has always been a strong believer in open communication and cooperation, not only within the department but also with other City, County, State, and Federal Departments. Chief Giardina has always said, "There are no unimportant jobs or people in this agency. Everyone plays an essential role in success of this Police Department". This type leadership is what has made Clifton, New Jersey a safe and welcoming place to live.

As Co-Chair of the Congressional Law Enforcement Caucus, I have been honored to work first-hand with him on a long list of public safety issues in my district. Chief Gary Giardina has always exemplified the virtues that merit all of his accomplishments. He has been a leader, a mentor, and friend to many of us and I am honored to have worked with a man of such integrity.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing and commemorating the achievements of individuals such as Chief Gary F. Giardina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Chief Giardina's coworkers, family and friends, all those whose lives he has touched, and me, in recognizing the career of Chief Gary F. Giardina.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN L. "JACK" STITZER, RECIPIENT OF THE FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR MEDAL

### HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 30, 2014*

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John L. "Jack" Stitzer, who was honored on May 8 as a Chevalier (Knight) of the Legion of Honor at the French Embassy in Washington, DC by Olivier Serot Almeras, the Consul General of France. Napoleon Bonaparte created the Legion of Honor in 1802 when he was first consul of France. Those who qualify for this award aided in the liberation of France during World War II.

Mr. Stitzer, resident of Gordon, Pennsylvania, entered the U.S. Army on May 24, 1943, and served with the 159th Engineer Combat Battalion. He was stationed in the United States, unaware his unit was preparing to leave for the D-Day invasion in Normandy. Mr. Stitzer served in the Third Army, which was commanded by General George S. Patton. Mr. Stitzer remained in Normandy for a few weeks before his unit of engineers travelled up the coast to clean the mines off the beaches, and ultimately fought as infantry. He and his unit travelled from Brest to Luxembourg and were stationed there until the Battle of the Bulge, where Mr. Stitzer was wounded.

Mr. Stitzer aided in the relief of the 101st Airborne Division, which defended the Belgian town of Bastogne against the Nazis by cinderling the roads for the tanks throughout the day and night. He also witnessed the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany.

Mr. Stitzer was also honored on May 26, 2014 as the grand marshal of the Gordon Memorial Day parade. Mr. Stitzer has received the Good Conduct Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, American Service Ribbon, Eastern Theater Offensive Ribbon with five Battle Stars, the Purple Heart and World War II Victory Medal. He served in Scotland, England, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Holland and Czechoslovakia until he was discharged on December 19, 1945.

Mr. Stitzer and his wife live in Gordon, Pennsylvania, and have three children. After his service in World War II, he ran his father's lumber yard and hardware store, and also was a salesman for Ajax Building Materials for 20 years.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Mr. Stitzer for his outstanding service for our country, and for risking his life during World War II to fight in France. He serves as a role model and inspiration to all, and I offer my sincere congratulations to him on this momentous occasion.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 30, 2014*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to have my votes recorded on the House floor on Wednesday, May 28, 2014. Weather in Chi-

cago delayed my flight to Washington, DC until late that night. Had I been present, I would have voted in favor of H. Res. 599 (Roll No. 241) and in favor of H.R. 503 (Roll No. 242).

COMMENDING LOCAL 2014 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THEIR DECISION TO ENLIST IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND OUR COMMUNITY SALUTES OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING THE FOURTH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL ENLISTEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

### HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 30, 2014*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize 50 graduating seniors in my community for their record of academic and athletic accomplishment and for their admirable decision to enlist in the United States Army. I also express my appreciation to Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia for providing this opportunity to be among the first to say to each of these young men and women: "Thank you."

I have had the privilege of working with Our Community Salutes of Northern Virginia since its inception in 2011. That year my office was contacted by one of the founding parents who upon learning that her son and other students at his school who had decided to enlist would not receive any recognition during graduation, joined with other parents to organize the first enlistee recognition ceremony of its kind in the region. The first ceremony recognized a total of 9 students. This year, we will recognize 129 young men and women who have chosen to serve our country in uniform.

With graduation season upon us, thousands of young people in my community, and millions across the nation, are preparing for the next chapter in their lives. Some will pursue higher education or vocational training, others will seek to enter the workforce immediately, and many will answer the call to serve their community and their country.

The United States of America has distinguished itself from other nations through the entrepreneurship and spirit of our people, the knowledge that we can achieve any goal if we set our minds to it, our inherent compassion and generosity, our fierce patriotism, and the extraordinary sacrifices and dedication to country exhibited by the members of our Armed Forces. The young men and women from our community who will be enlisting possess an abundance of each of these qualities. I join with their families and friends in congratulating and commending the following graduates on their enlistment in the United States Army:

Matthew Ainslie, Daniel Alt, Chardai Adora Anderson, Gustabo Arguera Granados, Rajhan Jubar Atkinson, David Barber, Dustin Barnes, Luke Battle, Anthony Boothby, Nathaniel Macques Bradford, Andrew Brown, Lam Hoai Bui, Jamie Nicole Cabling, Matthew Carrero, Thomas James Cleary, Gloria Cruces-Johansson, Caleb Downing, Oscar Gonzalez, Daniel Hemmingson, Kyle Hodges, Mitchell Henry Johnson, Romulo Grame Jovero, Nershon Kamara, Hunter McConchie,